

Transition plan for the CALFED Watershed Program development into a Statewide California Watershed Program

PROCESS SUMMARY

Watersheds have proven to be an effective organizing unit for managing natural resources. Because no single agency or other entity alone can effectively manage watersheds, it is in the state's interest to develop and support a statewide watershed program (Program) that will promote and conduct effective stewardship of natural resources in a watershed context. The Program will promote watershed management that includes local communities and state and federal agencies in collaboration with other stakeholders. The Program will retain many of the important elements that made the CALFED Watershed Program successful, as outlined and recommended during meetings of earlier Watershed Public Advisory Committees.

The Program has established a Public Advisory Committee to reflect the statewide focus by providing liaison between the Program and the Regions. The past level of public involvement and Program transparency will thus remain intact through an interactive public advisory function using basic principles of operation that will be developed with extensive public input. They will provide a basis for Program development and implementation that will maintain an emphasis on multi-stakeholder, multi-objective management.

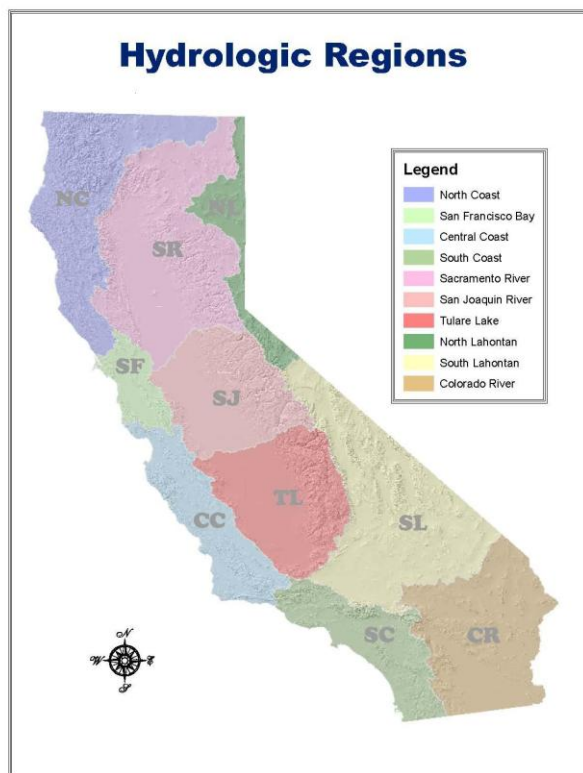
The new program is a Resources Agency action, and is administered through the Department of Conservation (DOC). It will include strong interaction and cooperation with other state and federal and local agencies. The structure and roles developed to guide public and agency involvement in describing the new strategy include:

Secretary of Resources: Provides overall policy guidance and feedback on Program development and implementation, after considering the public advice and comment gathered at the regional forums.

DOC Director: Provides administrative leadership for the Program, and works closely with the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee to define and include the interests of other state and federal agencies.

Steering Committee: A Committee of up to 24 non-agency stakeholders, chaired by two Co-Chairs (Robert Meacher and Martha Davis) meet regularly to provide liaison between the Watershed Program and the Regions; to help

generate diverse participation in the regional forums; to assist with meeting site selection, agendas, and meeting management; and to help synthesize and organize the ideas and advice received through the regional forums.



Regional Forums: Open meetings to take place in each of the ten identified hydrologic regions to solicit public comment and recommendations on Program development and implementation appropriate for the Region of focus, and to provide an avenue to include local experts in setting and tracking Program priorities and implementation actions.

Science Panel: A group of selected scientists and experts to advise on key questions posed by the Program. The major early task will be to develop a model to describe baseline conditions and to track change over time in each of the ten major hydrologic regions of the state.

Immediate term Program Functions: Continuing implementation and management of the remaining contracts and projects of the CALFED Watershed Program; maintaining strong public involvement and inclusion in Statewide Watershed Policy development; and maintaining effective contact with other state and federal agencies and programs.